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TUESDAY
JUNE 16, 1953

[redacted]

I asked M. Spaak to lunch with me at the Maison des Tanneurs and over grilled sole, minute steak and Riesling (Bergheim) 1949 we had a frank talk. His Socialist Party is imposing a lot of conditions to its voting for EDC ratification. I told him what an unhappy impression this would create in the United States and how exceedingly stimulating it would be to have one of the Belgian Chambers act favorably before its summer recess. He said he would see what could be done and suggested it would be useful if Foster Dulles called in Bob Silvercruys and made certain representations to him for relay to Van Zeeland.

The French situation remains sad. Reynaud, Mendès-France and Bidault have all failed in their attempts to form a government. André Marie has been canvassing his prospects for some days but has not yet decided whether to take a chance. France's allies are depressed and disgusted at her chronic political instability and her prestige is regrettably low.

I talked to Germans, Dutch, French and Belgians (including de Housse) today about European integration.

This afternoon Spaak announced there would be no meetings Wednesday and Thursday because of the absence on those days of the German, Italian and French parliamentarians, all of whom have political fish to fry at home. Therefore, we unexpectedly left tonight for Paris by the 6:20 p.m. train and arrived home soon after midnight.

Thanks to President Eisenhower's continued ~~and firm advocacy and the~~ popular sentiment in Europe favoring the European Defense and Political Communities, I remain optimistic over their coming into being, ~~but it is frustrating~~ that we cannot get the prospective mother to the obstetrician.

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Stan and I managed to work in an antique shop. I bought a good Compagnie des Indies plate for 4,000 francs. The previous day at another place I had acquired an amusing print of a woman with a tiny lapdog for -- 5,000 francs.

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